(a) whether Government are aware that huge amounts of arrears of, publications are pending for payment with DAVP;

(b) if so, the details thereof, publication-wise;

(c) by when these payments are expected to be cleared and who is responsible for such a state of affairs; and

(d) what effective steps Government propose to take to avoid recurrence of such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal agency for releasing Government advertisements on behalf of the client Ministries/Departments and handles a large volume of business annually. All efforts are made to make payments promptly. However, sometimes on account of late receipt of the funds from client Ministries/ Departments, delay occurs in making payments to the publications.

(b) The details of the publication-wise bills pending for want of funds from the client Ministries/Departments as on 15.3.2005 upto the year 2003-04 is given in the Annexure.

[See Appendix 204 Annexure No 19]

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made to clear these payments as early as possible. Ministries/Departments have been requested to honour commitments expeditiously and place funds at the disposal of DAVP for early clearance of bills. Sometimes delay in clearance of bills occurs due to late receipt of bills from newspapers. A special drive was recently launched by DAVP to clear the backlog on this count and an amount of Rs. 3,16,68,288/- was paid by DAVP to clear the outstanding bills pertaining to the period of January 2002 to June 2004. DAVP has also asked the Ministries/Departments to authorise DAVP to incur expenditure upto the limits specified for the publicity activity, in the beginning of the financial year itself so that the payment to the Newspaper/other media is released without delay.

Radio and TV coverage in Uttaranchal

†2091. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the percentage of population and area in Uttaranchal having access to Radio and Television;

(b) whether his Ministry is working on a scheme to enlarge the coverage of Radio and Television in the current Five Year Plan keeping in view sensitivity of the State; and

(c) if so, the percentage of population which is expected to have access to both the medium at the end of current Five Year Plan alongwith the details of the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Primary grade radio coverage (MW & FM) in Uttaranchal is available to 77.37% of the population with 52.8% area coverage. TV coverage in terrestrial mode is available to 81.4% of the population with 51.4% area of the State.

(b) and (c) Eight new radio stations and five low power radio transmitters are proposed to be set-up in Uttaranchal during the Tenth Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources. On their completion, 87.36% of the population in Uttaranchal is expected to be covered by terrestrial radio transmission.

TV coverage to hitherto uncovered areas in the country, including those in Uttaranchal, has now been provided through KU Band transmission (Free to Air DTH Service) and as such, no new terrestrial TV transmitters are proposed to be set up in Uttaranchal State.

Shifting of Telugu news

2092. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift Telugu News in All India Radio from Delhi to Hyderabad; and

(b) if so by when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Due to non-availability of permanent staff to read news in various languages in Delhi, the Prasar Bharati has decided to shift the AIR Units including Telugu News to concerned State Headquarters in a phased manner.